



June 8, 2014

Rep. Hugh Crawford, Chair  
House Regulatory Reform Committee  
House Office Building, Room 521  
Lansing, Michigan  
Fax: (517) 373-5873  
[HughCrawford@house.mi.gov](mailto:HughCrawford@house.mi.gov)

Re: HB 5095 Regulatory reform-animals, pet shops, shelters, commercial breeders.

Dear Representative Crawford and Committee Members:

The Sportsmen's & Animal Owners' Voting Alliance (SAOVA) is a bipartisan organization working to maintain the rights of sportsmen, animal professionals, and responsible animal owners nationwide and in Michigan. We are writing today in OPPOSITION to sections of HB 5095.

HB 5095 defines large scale dog breeding kennels as those with more than 15 female intact dogs over the age of 4 months. This definition is problematic for several reasons. A 4 month old, or any immature female dog, is incapable of reproduction; this is not a feasible age limit for regulatory inclusion. The bill also creates a definition of breeding kennels based on animals owned rather than sales made. There are no exemptions for kennels where dogs are kept or trained for the purpose of hunting, herding, guarding livestock, police or security work.

Sec. 5a. (1) states a licensed entity shall not produce the death of any animal other than by euthanasia. We believe this wording is awkward and is meant to ensure that euthanasia is performed by humane methods. However, as currently stated, a kennel owner would be in violation of the law if a dog died of old age, was accidentally hit by a car or even attacked by a predator on the premises.

Sec. 8B. (3) reduces the holding time for cats in shelters to only 2 days. Cat owners deserve the same holding time as dog owners in which to locate and retrieve their pet. Perhaps the collar fell off, the microchip scan failed or the cat never had a microchip as the owner was concerned regarding Microchip-associated fibrosarcoma.

We do agree that requiring proper vaccinations and certifications for dogs imported into shelters is prudent to protect the health of shelter populations and Michigan dogs in general.

We urge you not to report HB 5095 out of committee as written.

Respectfully,

Susan Wolf  
President, Sportsmen's & Animal Owners' Voting Alliance  
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